



Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board MINUTES



Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board March 3, 2010

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Takako Wakita at Noon. Secretary Janet Baker called the Roll, members in attendance were: Takako Wakita, Chairperson; Wayne Hewitt, Vice Chairperson; Janet Baker, Recording Secretary; Joe Cantrell, Weihai, China; David Gorbet, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro; Marianne Freeman, Dingle, Ireland, and Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan. Linda Gunther, Staff Representative was also in attendance. No representative was present for San Juan, Philippines.

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried the minutes of the November 4, 2009, meeting was approved. There were no minutes for January as the meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Linda Gunther reported that the Sister Cities Website needs to be updated. She said the Puerto Vallarta Sister City has a good Website to use as an example. Weihai needs a photo for their site; San Juan needs a photo and update of information; Dingle needs information update; and information and photos for Kotor needs to be added. Anyone who would like to copy their site similar to Puerto Vallarta's please contact Linda Gunther. Joe Cantrell reported that Dr. Peter Haslund has books on Weihai that he plans to donate to the Central Library and he is proposing that the Library set aside a section where books, etc. regarding Sister Cities can be displayed. He is suggesting four or five books from each Sister City be donated. There will be further discussion of this at the May meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Representatives of a group from Patras, Greece, spoke and said they are proposing a Sister City in Patras, Greece – they will attend the May meeting with a formal proposal. They have been given the Guidelines for Establishing a Sister City.

REVIEW OF CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2010: Takako reminded the Representatives that the Annual Reports are due and she needs them no later than Saturday, May 15th. The report covers activities from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. She asked that these reports be E-Mailed to her by May 15th so that she may correlate them for the final report due June 30th to the City Council.

SPECIAL REPORT ON KOTOR, MONTENEGRO SISTER CITY COMMITTEE'S VISIT TO SANTA BARBARA: George Lilly, President of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Kotor group distributed copies of his report on the visitation of a delegation from Kotor, including the Mayor of Kotor, which took place February 13 - February 20, 2010. The report listed the names of the delegation; agenda for their visit; Santa Barbara News-Press and Kotor Press coverage of the visit; photos of the "Culinary Academy, a project started by Kotor along with the Institute for Education and Rehabilitation between the cities of Kotor, Montenegro and Barolo, Italy, for persons with hearing and speech disorders to learn the Culinary Art to prepare them for possible employment in the hotel and restaurant business. Mr. Lilly said he felt the visitation was a success and that they accomplished a lot during their stay in Santa Barbara.

PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV (CHANNEL 17) - WAYNE HEWITT: Wayne reported that he had only received CD's from the Toba Sister City and needs input from the other Sister Cities before he can proceed with this project.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS: (Limit 3 minutes each)

Weihai, China: Joe Cantrell reported that they have elected a new Board and are meeting once a month. He reported the Chinese New Year Celebration dinner was attended by 65 people. Joe said that Dr. Haslund is working to send some more teachers to Weihai this summer to teach English. He would also like to have two teachers from Weihai come to Santa Barbara to teach Chinese if this can be arranged.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: David Gorbet reported on the group's annual visitation to Puerto Vallarta which left on Saturday after Thanksgiving for ten days which included three Deputies from the Sheriff's Department to train the Puerto Vallarta police in SWAT tactics. They had the largest graduation class to date which included not only the Puerto Vallarta Police, but Federalies and other law enforcement personnel. Also, five IMadonnari artists from Santa Barbara joined with artists in Puerto Vallarta to do their chalk work on the Plaza in front of City Hall - despite the RAIN. Plans are also in the works for the 1st Annual Golf Tournament in May as a fund raiser and also for another Copper Canyon trip in May, this trip proved very popular last year.

Dingle, Ireland: Marianne Freeman reported that they are still "status quo", have not been able to get any activity generated as yet.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews reported the Japanese New Year's celebration dinner was held in January at the Bethany Congregational Church and was well attended. She extended invitations to the Japanese Family Festival on Saturday, March 6, 2010 at Westmont College Reynolds Gallery which will feature crafts, food, music, entertainment and demonstrations. Work is in progress for the annual student exchange in July and August.

San Juan, Philippines: No report given.

Kotor, Montenegro: Special Report Given Earlier On Agenda.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet M. Baker, Recording Secretary